

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
July 9, 2015

Present: Jane Knox, Noaris Burgos, Rita Braswell, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by chair Jane Knox.

Introductions were made.

The May 21, 2015 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Burgos/Braswell.

The committee reviewed an outline of a proposed Food Too Good To Waste campaign that will target families of school age children to reduce the amount of preventable food waste during school year 2015/2016. The committee looked at King County, Washington's website. The Town has the permission from King County to use all the content on their website and from the EPA to use the Food Too Good To Waste logo. Walton will be talking to the Town's website designer to discuss the cost of incorporating the information onto the trash webpages. She will then apply for a recycling innovations grant through the CT DEEP for the website work. Members discussed the value of offering a pledge that is easy to complete instead of a challenge that involves tracking the amount of food waste during a four week period. Walton suggested that those who pledge to reduce food waste could then at a later time be asked if they are willing to participate in a shortened version of the challenge. Burgos suggested using an incremental approach to the campaign to avoid overwhelming busy families. Members liked the idea of working through the school PTOs.

The committee discussed auditing the waste stream of the Town Hall in October or November, as a next step in the municipal paper reduction pilot. Knox and Braswell volunteered to help with weighing trash and recyclables. This information will be recorded by department and the Town Hall as a whole. Departments could compete with each other and the winning department could have a reward of a Thursday ice cream bar, for instance. Walton will check with the Town Manager before moving ahead.

The committee looked over last year's letter that was sent to the food service businesses surrounding the town square about reducing waste. The committee decided that a shorter letter should be sent again to the businesses noting the Town Council's near zero waste resolution. Knox said she would make revisions the letter and get it back to Walton. Walton asked for volunteers to help with the Celebrate Mansfield Festival at the waste stations this year.

Walton reported that the new Storrs Center buildings opening in August will use trash/recycle compactors. Since this is a new type of collection method under the multi-family contract, rates need to be established. Like a trash dumpster, there are three costs associated with using a compactor – rental fee, hauling cost and trash tipping fee. Unlike a dumpster, where collection is regularly scheduled regardless of whether the dumpster is full or not, a trash compactor is removed, rather than emptied on-site, when it is full. The number of hauls and trash tipping fee will vary from month to month. The committee reviewed and agreed to the proposed fees and method of charging. The rental charge will be in advance of service; the actual number of hauls and actual tipping fee will be billed the following quarter. Once there are a few months of data, SWAC will be asked to re-evaluate the fees and method of billing.

### Recycling Coordinator's Report

1. Walton stated that CT DEEP has not confirmed acceptance of the food scrap composting demonstration proposal yet.
2. Walton worked at the transfer station on Saturday June 6, 2015 testing residents' recycling IQ. She was surprised at how many people thought paper plates and cups are recyclable. Braswell stated that among senior citizens there is also a lot of confusion as to what is and is not recyclable. Walton will get information into the Senior Sparks by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Posting information regularly outside of the entrance shed at the transfer station might be a good way to inform users of the transfer station.
3. Walton sent in the grant for recycling rewards and anticipates receiving some money for the Town's solid waste achievements.
4. Willimantic Waste Paper has not yet responded to a request to visit the recycling facility.

The committee decided to begin meetings at 6:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm.

The next meeting will be September 3, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator